

The University of Iowa School of Music
Production of

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

Music by Lyrics by Book by
Alan Menken Stephen Schwartz Peter Parnell

Based on the Victor Hugo novel and songs from the Disney film

Originally Developed by Disney Theatrical Productions

Orchestrations by Michael Starobin

Incidental Music and Vocal Arrangements by Michael Kosarin

Dance Arrangements by Rob Berman

Directed by Abbigail Côté

Conducted by Kenny Lee

April 24-25, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium

IOWA | Music

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Friday, April 24, 2026 / 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 25, 2026 / 7:30 p.m.

Hancher Auditorium / Hadley Stage / Auditorium Seating

Iowa City, Iowa

*Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. Please
silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.*

**We express our sincere gratitude to the following people
who helped make this production possible:**

Keely Futterer, David Meyer, Stella Roden, Jeremiah Sanders, Wayne Wyman, Doreen Lee, Minji Kwon, Mariya Akhadjanova, KatyBeth Schmid, Jason Millsap, Briana Maxwell, Justin Goodchild, James Edel, Rosie Ver Steegh, Aaron Greenwald, Executive Director of Hancher and the Office of Performing Arts and Engagement, André Perry, School of Music Director, Tammie Walker, Associate Dean for the Arts and Humanities, Roland Racevskis, and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Sara Sanders.

*The Hunchback of Notre Dame is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com*

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ARTISTIC TEAM

DIRECTOR

Abbigail Coté

CONDUCTOR

Kenny Lee

VOCAL COACH AND CHORUS MASTER

Wayne Wyman

CHOREOGRAPHER

Sophie Good

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER AND INTIMACY COORDINATOR

Cristina Goyeneche

SCENIC AND PROPS DESIGNER

Shawn Ketchum Johnson

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Ed McCarthy

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Margaret Wenk-Kuchlbauer

PROJECTIONS DESIGNER

Emily Berkheimer

REHEARSAL PIANISTS

Minji Kwon

Mariya Akhadjanova

STAGE MANAGER

KatyBeth Schmid*

ASSISTANT CONDUCTORS

Matthew Clarke

Joey Sun

ASSISTANT CHORUS MASTER

Kate O'Connell

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Bonnie Ruble

Costumes provided by Sarasota Opera Association, Inc.

**Member of Actors' Equity Association, The Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

CAST LIST

PRINCIPAL CAST

Frollo.....	Rodger Lederer
Esmeralda.....	Kayla Leacock*
Quasimodo.....	Logan McClellan
Phoebus.....	Louie Meyers
Clopin.....	Kaleb Osborne
Archangel Raguel.....	Evan Schmidt
Archangel Jophiel.....	Travis Richter
Archangel Asreal.....	Elizabeth Goff
Archangel Remiel.....	Sage Johnson
Archange Uriel.....	Ella Strader
Saint Aphrodisius.....	Travis Richter

PRINCIPAL CHORUS

Statue, Dupin, Haughty Gentleman, King Louis XI.....	Preston Crawlez
Statue, Gypsy.....	Addison Cribbs
Statue, Fredrick, Phoebus Cover.....	Nathaniel Golay
Statue, Madame, Gypsy Dancer.....	Kate O’Connell
Statue, Gypsy.....	Sherry Xia
Statue, Jehan, Jehan Ghost, Executioner, Soldier.....	Gavin Gilbert
Gypsy Dancer and Dance Captain.....	Lily Schloss
Florika, Florika’s Ghost, Gypsy Dancer.....	Charlie Ramig

ENSEMBLE CHORUS

Esmeralda Cover, Dance Captain.....	Hannah Fideli
Ensemble Chorus.....	Merus Brown
	Elizabeth Cerrito
	Kathleen Godsel
	Veronica McClennen
	Phillip Mobley
	Josh Morey
	Jon Pyatt
	Rana Saba
	Maria Stavroplus
	Emily Wichelmann

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Abbigail Coté, director

On June 19, 1996, Disney films premiered its 34th animated feature, an adaptation of Victor Hugo's classic novel, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. While initially a modest box office success, the film developed a fervent following through VHS rentals, and eventually found its true home on the stage.

The stage journey began with James Lapine's production, *Der Glockner von Notre Dame*, which played 1,204 performances to 1.4 million people over a three-year residency at the Theatre am Potsdamer Platz. The grand-scale musical featured an international cast of 42 performers, and the cast recording soon achieved cult status, leading to a new English-language production. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* made its U.S. premier at La Jolla Playhouse in 2014, directed by librettist Stephen Schwartz with a new book by Peter Parnell. The show achieved immediate success, and continues to receive numerous performances in professional, regional, and youth theaters across the globe.

While a Disney musical may seem like an odd choice for opera programming, the piece is ripe for the French Grand Opera treatment. In the early 19th century, composer Giacomo Meyerbeer unleashed a new magical aesthetic for opera audiences, branding French Grand Opera as, "The Art of the Future." Soaring arias, monumental choruses, and revolutionary stage effects fused into historical dramas that capture the pulse of a society in turmoil, turned the opera house into a thrilling mirror, reflecting revolution, power, identity, and the clash of old worlds with the new. French Grand Opera dominated global opera stages for a century before falling out of favor for German Music Drama and Italian Verismo opera.

Victor Hugo's story contrasts a physically monstrous man with a man who hides a monstrous heart, asking the audience to discern who the real monster is. Menken's score initially blurs the line between good and evil, rendering Frollo's inner struggle with passionate music that stirs the soul. Witnessing Frollo's descent into relentless evil forms the central tragedy of our story.

Menken and Schwartz's massive score provides a powerful, operatic voice for the high-stakes struggle between lust, faith, and fate. Accompanied by the UI Symphony Orchestra, our students bring this musical spectacle to life in a grand opera setting tailored to their emerging vocal artistry. We are thrilled to bring this new production of *Hunchback* to the Hancher stage. Enjoy!

PROGRAM

PROLOGUE

Olin Arch Angels & Chorus
The Bells of Notre Dame I Tutti

ACT I

Sanctuary I Frolo & Quasimodo
Out There Quasimodo
Topsy Turvy I Quasimodo, Arch Angels, & Chorus
Rest and Recreation Phoebus, Quasimodo,
Arch Angels, & Chorus
Rhythm of the Tambourine Tutti
Topsy Turvy II Tutti
Sanctuary II Frolo & Quasimodo
The Bells of Notre Dame II Esmeralda, Arch Angels, & Chorus
God Help the Outcasts Esmeralda, Frolo, Arch Angels, & Chorus
Top of the World Esmeralda, Quasimodo, & Arch Angels
Tavern Song Esmeralda, Phoebus, Clopin, & Chorus
Heaven's Light Quasimodo & Arch Angels
Hellfire Frolo, Arch Angels, & Chorus
Esmeralda Tutti

ACT II

Entr'acte Arch Angels & Chorus
Flight into Egypt Quasimodo & Arch Angels
The Court of Miracles Clopin & Chorus
In a Place of Miracles Esmeralda, Phoebus,
Quasimodo, Clopin, & Chorus
The Bells of Notre Dame III Arch Angels
Someday Esmeralda & Phoebus
While the City Slumbered Arch Angels
Made of Stone Quasimodo & Arch Angels
Top of the World II Esmeralda & Quasimodo
Esmeralda II Frolo, Quasimodo, Arch Angels, & Chorus
Finale Ultimo Tutti

SYNOPSIS

PROLOGUE

The Angels gather for the sacred ritual of weighing the souls of monstrous men. The Archangel Raguel presents Claude Frollo, as a redeemable monster. To begin their judgment, the Angels descend to Earth, manifesting Frollo's world: medieval Paris on festival day. The Angels observe Frollo's stern warning to his congregation against the secular temptations of the Feast of Fools. At the end of Frollo's sermon, the Angels draw back the veil of time to witness Frollo's childhood in Notre Dame.

They watch as orphaned brothers Claude and Jehan take sanctuary in Notre Dame. While Claude thrives in monastic life, Jehan yearns for the world outside the cathedral walls. Jehan begins to test the bounds of his freedom and on Claude's birthday, he sneaks a Romani girl into their chambers. Father Dupin catches them and expels Jehan from Notre Dame for his libertine behavior.

Claude Frollo advances quickly, eventually attaining the rank of Archdeacon. Then one day, he receives a message from Jehan. Frollo leaves Notre Dame to find Jehan dying in a brothel. Jehan asks Frollo to adopt his son. Frollo recoils from Jehan's deformed son, but Jehan dies and Frollo flees the brothel with the baby.

Back at Notre Dame, Frollo holds his infant nephew from the precipice. But, before he kills the child, Frollo feels the eyes of the angels watching him closely. Frollo decides the baby is a test from God and vows to raise the baby. Frollo names the baby "Quasimodo."

The Angels move the veil of time forward to the Feast of Fools. Archangel Jophiel claims Quasimodo as his monster for the weighing ritual. Quasimodo rings the bells to start the morning and the Angel's plot begins.

ACT I

Quasimodo finishes his bell ringing and greets his gargoyle and statue friends. Frollo arrives with breakfast. The two share a treat to celebrate the holiday even though Frollo laments the festival. Frollo starts Quasimodo's bible lesson but is interrupted by the call for the festival to begin.

Quasimodo asks if he can attend the festival, but Frollo laughs at his suggestion. Frollo tells Quasimodo people will recoil from him, cautioning Quasimodo to stay hidden. After Frollo leaves, Quasimodo decides to rebel and sneaks out into the Feast of Fools festival.

The Angels herald the start of the Feast of Fools. As the festival manifests, Quasimodo absorbs the milieu around him. He witnesses Clopin, the disguised King of the Gypsies, fleece a wealthy merchant. Then Phoebus, the new Captain of the Notre Dame Guard, arrives and apprehends the culprit. Frollo enters the square and orders Clopin's arrest, but Clopin escapes while Frollo and Phoebus take their place on the dais to watch the festival.

Clopin heralds Esmeralda's tambourine dance. Esmeralda and the gypsies dance to the crowds delight. Frollo, Quasimodo, and Phoebus are all taken with Esmeralda's performance.

The competition to crown the King of Fools starts. Esmeralda convinces Quasimodo to join the competition, but the crowd is shocked to see him in real life. Clopin wins the crowd by exalting in Quasimodo's ugly face and everyone celebrates King of Fools.

The Angels begin to influence the crowd, whispering about Quasimodo's monstrous appearance. The crowd turns violent towards Quasimodo, but Esmeralda stops them. After freeing Quasimodo, and the crowd turns on Esmeralda and Clopin helps her escape the mob. Frollo finally intervenes and orders the guards to disperse the crowd.

The Angels watch Frollo confront Quasimodo. Quasimodo begs forgiveness and they both return home to Notre Dame.

The Angels guide Esmeralda to Notre Dame. Frollo is stunned to find Esmeralda at the Cathedral. He interrogates Esmeralda but is delighted to learn she naturally displays Christian morals. They are interrupted by the start of evening mass. Frollo encourages Esmeralda to stay and learn about the faith.

Esmeralda watches the service and prays God will help the Romani who struggle to survive. Mass ends and Frederik moves to remove Esmeralda from the Cathedral, but Phoebus stops him.

After a brief scuffle, Phoebus and Esmeralda chat about their pasts. When they discover Quasimodo, Esmeralda sets off to find a way up to him. Quasimodo desperately searches for a place to hide, but Esmeralda discovers his workshop. Quasimodo shows Esmeralda his statue friends, the bells and the hot lead he uses to mend the bells. Frollo enters, fuming that the bells are sounding outside normal hours. He scolds Quasimodo for distracting Esmeralda and escorts her out of Quasimodo's shop.

Quasimodo spies as Frollo offers Esmeralda a place at Notre Dame. Esmeralda declines Frollo's offer, so Frollo ejects her from the cathedral, threatening her arrest if she ever returns. Frollo warns Quasimodo about sexual temptation and then leaves Quasimodo to ring the evening bells.

The Angels follow Frollo as he stalks the streets of Paris looking for Esmeralda. Frollo finds La Pomme d'Eve, the tavern where Esmeralda dances, and watches her. Phoebus arrives and flirts and dances with Esmeralda while Frollo seethes in the distance. Esmeralda leaves the tavern and Phoebus follows her, while Frollo stalks home. Quasimodo rings the midnight bells and pines for Esmeralda. Alone, Frollo prays for strength and vows to possess or destroy Esmeralda.

The next day, Frollo receives permission from the King to hunt Esmeralda down for witchcraft. The search leads to the gypsy brothel. Frollo orders his men to burn the brothel down, while people are inside. But, Phoebus pauses and the Angels watch as Phoebus decides to defy the order, saving the lives of the gypsies inside.

Frollo fires Phoebus and orders his arrest. Phoebus fights the other soldiers but Frollo stabs him and blames Esmeralda. Esmeralda and the gypsies save Phoebus and disappear. Frollo and the soldiers begin to burn down Paris as Quasimodo watches from the top of Notre Dame.

ACT II

The Angels reflect on Frollo, Phoebus, and Quasimodo's soul before descending back to Notre Dame where midnight mass is ending.

Esmeralda finds Quasimodo and asks him to hide Phoebus. Quasimodo agrees to help so Esmeralda gives him a map that leads to the gypsy hideout. Archangel Jophiel appears to Quasimodo as Saint Aphrodisius and encourages him to leave Notre Dame to find Esmeralda.

Frollo arrives. The Angels watch Quasimodo lie to Frollo. They are interrupted by Frederik, the new captain of the guard. Frederik informs Frollo the soldiers have found the gypsy lair. Frollo decides to attack at dawn, leaving Quasimodo for the night.

Phoebus wrenches to his feet, vowing to warn Esmeralda, but Quasimodo

stops him. After a brief argument, the two men set out to find Esmeralda. They track the map to a lone alley but are caught and gagged by Clopin and his band of gypsies.

The gypsies decide to hang Quasimodo and Phoebus, but Esmeralda stops them. Clopin questions Esmeralda's loyalties, but Phoebus and Quasimodo warn them of Frollo's planned attack. The gypsies start to pack their things, but are attacked by Frollo and the guard. Clopin escapes, but Esmeralda and Phoebus are taken to the prison. Frollo tells the guards to take Quasimodo home.

At the prison, the Angels watch Frollo proposition Esmeralda. Esmeralda refuses Frollo's offer so he assaults her. Frollo calls for the guard to bring Phoebus in to say goodbye and leaves them alone in the cell.

Phoebus and Esmeralda comfort each other until morning when Esmeralda is led away to the execution square. The Angels comfort a distraught Phoebus. Quasimodo looks over the square and bemoans his fate, telling his statue friends to go away. A crowd gathers and Esmeralda is brought into the square. Frollo offers Esmeralda a final chance to give herself to him, but she refuses. So, Frollo sentences Esmeralda to death. The executioner lights the pyre.

But Quasimodo breaks his restraints and escapes Notre Dame. He fights his way to Esmeralda, frees her from the pyre and carries her back to Notre Dame. Frollo orders his soldiers to attack the Cathedral. Clopin saves Phoebus and the people rise up against the soldiers. Quasimodo releases the hot lead and the soldiers disperse.

Quasimodo tends to Esmeralda. Esmeralda calls Quasimodo a good friend and dies. Frollo arrives. He placates Quasimodo until they both begin to struggle. Quasimodo overpowers Frollo and throws him off Notre Dame. The Angels damn Frollo.

Phoebus arrives looking for Esmeralda. Quasimodo tells Phoebus Esmeralda is dead. Phoebus collapses next to Esmeralda. The Angels console Quasimodo as he descends to the cribs, where he dies holding Esmeralda's body.

The Angels say goodbye to Paris and return to heaven.

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Director Briana Maxwell*
Production Stage Manager KatyBeth Schmid*
Associate Company Manager Jason Millsap

SCENIC AND PROPS STAFF

Technical Director Don Schneider
Scenery Shop Manager Mike Nolte
Scenery Fabrication Specialist Josh Teal
Paint Shop Manager Joan Newhouse
Props Manager Gina Smothers Hansen
Props Artisans CJ Mobberley, Reese Morgan
Scenic Artist Leslie Delavan
Scenic Carpenters Sescie Haan, Payton Hilton,
John Hunter, Allison Kruzich,
Grant Necker, Adeline O'Neil
Scenic Painters Ashton Hall, Syanne Handy,
Bella Hogan, Kaela LaFortune,
Magdalena Roy, Ava Slater,
Nazanin Vakili

COSTUME STAFF

Costume Shop Manager Cindy Kubu
Costume Fabrication Specialist Brendan T. Dudgeon
Wardrobe Crew Kara Andersen, Delaney Mann,
Joyce McKinley, Jessica Pfeifer,
Amber Taggart, Andrea Wright,
Fiona Zachel

ELECTRICS STAFF

Lighting Supervisor Joshua Nathanson
Master Electrician Jackson Kopesky
Electrics Assistant Julia Corbett
Electrics Crew Asher Bonner, Gabby Johnson,
Vi Kasych, Aiden Kelsey,
Colin Kiernan, Elizabeth Renner
Light Board Operator Gabi Vanek

AUDIO/VIDEO STAFF

Audio/Video Supervisor.....Rachel Duncan
Audio Engineer Chris Jensen
Audio Engineer Assistant Audrey Frett
Audio/Video Crew Lola Costello, Gabe Quint
Digital Media Specialist Emily Berkheimer

PRODUCTION CREW

Production Assistant Julia Corbett
Head Carpenter Mike Nolte
Head Flyperson Josh Teal
Fly Crew Chase Grim, Ethan Hooten
Deck Crew Leads Payton Hilton, Allison Kruzich
Deck Shift Crew Ava Burmahl, Katie Byriel,
Jack Haffley, Noah Hanov,
Luccas Hart, Adi Haviland,
Bella Hogan, Kaiya Kralik,
Gabby Risk, Ev Walters

ARTISTIC TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

ALAN MENKEN (Composer) Theater: *God Bless You Mr Rosewater, Little Shop Of Horrors, Real Life Funnies, Atina: Evil Queen Of The Galaxy, Kicks, The Apprenticeship Of Duddy Kravitz, Beauty And The Beast, A Christmas Carol, Weird Romance, King David, Der Glöckner Von Notre Dame, The Little Mermaid, Sister Act, Leap Of Faith, Aladdin,* and *Newsies*. Film: *Little Shop Of Horrors, The Little Mermaid, Beauty And The Beast, Newsies, Aladdin, Pocahontas, The Hunchback Of Notre Dame, Hercules, Life With Mikey, Lincoln, Home On The Range, Noel, Enchanted, Shaggy Dog, Tangled,* and *Mirror Mirror*. Songs: *Rocky V, Home Alone 2* and *Captain America*. Awards: 8 Oscars (19 nominations), 11 Grammys (including Song of the Year), 7 Golden Globes, Tony® (plus 4 nominations), Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, New York Drama Critics, Olivier and London's Evening Standard Award, and Drama League. Honors: Songwriter's Hall of Fame, Doctorates from New York University and University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ wrote the music and lyrics for *WICKED*. In addition, Stephen Schwartz's scores for musical theatre include *GODSPELL, PIPPIN, THE BAKER'S WIFE,* and *CHILDREN OF EDEN*. For film, he wrote the songs for *THE PRINCE OF EGYPT* and collaborated with composer Alan Menken on the songs for Disney's *POCAHONTAS, THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME,* and *ENCHANTED*. In the classical field, he wrote lyrics in collaboration with Leonard Bernstein for Bernstein's *MASS*. Awards include three Academy Awards, four Grammy Awards, and the Isabelle Stevenson Tony Award. In the United States, Mr. Schwartz has been inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame and has been given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. For further information, he invites interested members of the audience to visit his website at www.stephenschwartz.com

ABBIGAIL COTÉ, Director of Opera at the University of Iowa. UI directing credits: *The Classical Style, Rita / La Colombe, Così fan tutte*. Selected directing credits: *Die Zauberflöte* (U Mich), *Cendrillon* (U Mich), *Werther* (U Mich), *Proving Up* (U Mich), *All Wounds Bleed / The Daughters of the Bloody Duke* (U Mich), *Giselle in her Bathtub* (EWU), *Law and Opera with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg* (Castleton Music Festival). Producing credits: *La Traviata* (Eugene Opera), *Hansel and Gretel* (Eugene Opera), *Woman of Salt* (A-Squared Productions). Academia: Director of Vocal Studies at Eastern Washington University, Opera Director at University of Michigan. Abigail holds a DMA in vocal performance and vocal pedagogy from the University

of Oregon and a MM in opera stage direction from Florida State University where she studied with Matthew Lata, Douglas Fisher, and Claudia Zahn.

KENNY LEE enjoys a diverse career both as a conductor and cellist. Recent conducting engagements include appearances with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Czech Chamber Philharmonic, the Jerusalem Symphony, and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras. An active chamber musician, Lee has collaborated with members of the Berlin Philharmonic and the Juilliard, Cleveland, and Borromeo quartets. As co-founder and artistic director of the Flatirons Chamber Music Festival in Boulder, Colorado, he continues to champion innovative programming. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where he received the Celentano Award for Excellence in Chamber Music, and earned both his MM and DMA with honors from the New England Conservatory. He is currently Assistant Professor and Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Iowa.

ED McCARTHY is happy to return to the University of Iowa for his 19th show. Other work: *Unmasked: The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* at Paper Mill Playhouse; *Kathleen Turner- Finding My Voice. The Heart of Robin Hood* in Hong Kong, LA. Public Theater: *Southern Comfort*. Broadway: *Celebrity Autobiography* (May '26), adaptation of *Coram Boy* (2007 Tony nomination for Best Lighting of a Play); *Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular*. Over 70 Off-Bway and regional shows. Associate Lighting Designer for all companies of *Mamma Mia!* in the Western Hemisphere, and many others. Television: the last 25 *Tony Awards* (8 Emmy nominations) *Live from Lincoln Center, Grammy Awards, Prairie Home Companion*, and more. Graduate of, and teacher at, NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

MARGARET WENK-KUHLBAUER is pleased to guest with the whole team again to help bring *Hunchback* to the Hancher stage, Margaret has designed costumes and scenery for many UI operas over the years, most recently *Così fan tutte* and *Fierce*. In 2024, *Dance Gala: AGILE* in Hancher capped a career also designing for the Department of Dance.

EMILY BERKHEIMER is a media designer specializing in live, interactive visuals for theatre, opera, and dance. Her work integrates live camera, motion capture, and 3D workflows to create immersive experiences. As Digital Media Specialist for the Performing Arts Production unit, Emily blends complex technical systems with artistic composition to create experiences at the intersection of art and technology.

KATYBETH SCHMID is the Production Stage Manager for the Department of Dance and the Martha-Ellen Tye Opera Theatre at the University of Iowa. She received her MFA in stage management from Iowa and spent many years working for Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas and internationally. Recent work at Iowa includes *Rita & La Colombe*, *Fierce*, *La Traviata*, *L'amico Fritz*, *Dance Gala 2022*, *Dance Gala 2023*, *Dance Gala 2024*, and *Dance Gala 2025*. KatyBeth is a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association.

BONNIE RUBLE is a second-year MFA Stage Manager at the University of Iowa. Previously, before coming back to school, they were the Production Manager of the Waterloo Community Playhouse in Waterloo, Iowa. Their recent credits include Stage Manager for *How to Defend Yourself*, Assistant Stage Manager for *Side Show*, and Stage Manager for the International Writing Program and Department of Dance collaborations *Dialogic Works in Progress* and *E/Merge* at the University of Iowa. Additionally, they were the stage management intern for Cincinnati Opera's 2025 production of *Tosca*. They hope you enjoy *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*!

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI) is works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide. MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre, and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior® shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students. Launched in May 2025, MTI's Broadway Senior™ musicals are geared and adapted for adult performers 55 and over. MTI maintains its global headquarters in New York City with additional offices in London (MTI Europe) and Melbourne (MTI Australasia).

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



MERUS BROWN is elated to be making her operatic debut with *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. She is an active member of Musical Theatre Ambassadors and previously participated in the 2025 Ten-Minute Play Festival.



ELIZABETH CERRITO, soprano, received a Master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Iowa in 2025 and an undergraduate degree in music production and recording arts from Elon University in 2023. While at the University of Iowa, she studied voice with Dr. Stephen Swanson, baritone, and Dr. Élise DesChamps, mezzo-soprano. Elizabeth's recent opera roles include Puccini's

Suor Angelica (la sorella infermiera), Menefield's *Fierce* (ensemble), and Mozart's *Così fan tutte* (Dorabella). She also participated in masterclasses with American dramatic soprano Angela Brown as well as the Blue Heron Renaissance Choir, and she is a frequent soloist at Christ Episcopal Church in Cedar Rapids.



PRESTON CRAWLEY is a first-year vocal music education major at the University of Iowa studying with Dr. Jeremiah Sanders. This is his first production at the University of Iowa, but past roles include Ren in *Footloose*, Donkey in *Shrek The Musical*, and Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Preston has also been an IHSSA All-State performer for four years and received

five 1 (Superior) ratings at the Iowa Solo/Ensemble festivals in 2024 and 2025 in the vocal categories. He looks forward to this performance in the University of Iowa's opera and plans to continue with future performances in the coming years. He wants to thank his family and friends for all their support to getting him to where he is now!



ADDISON CRIBBS is a first-year vocal music education student at the University of Iowa studying with Dr. Stella Roden. She is from Iowa City and has appeared in many musicals at Theatre West and City Circle, most notably as the Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*. This is her second opera production at the university, previously performing in the fall as Subdominant in *The Classical Style*. She would like to thank her director, vocal professor, friends, and family for supporting her through all her musical endeavors. Enjoy the show!



HANNAH FIDELI is in her final semester at the University of Iowa. She'll be graduating with degrees in theatre arts on the music theatre track and journalism & mass communication. She is pursuing a career in TV news. She is so excited to be a part of her first and final opera, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with the School of Music. You may have seen her at the UI Department of Theatre Arts in *Head Over Heels* in March. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her creative endeavors and career choice. She wants to thank her grandparents for taking her to dance class, music lessons and musical rehearsals growing up. She would like to thank her friends and boyfriend for showing up to every one of her performances. Enjoy the show!



GAVIN GILBERT is an actor and musician who has performed in various musicals and plays. A current first-year student, he majoring in vocal performance on the music theatre track and music education. Gavin is so grateful to be performing in such a great space and so happy to be playing the role of Jehan and his ghost in Iowa's production of *Hunchback*!



KATHLEEN GODSEL is a second-year biology and music theatre student at the University of Iowa studying under Dr. Stella Roden. Her past roles include the Narrator in *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Marist High School), Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Marist High School), and Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* (Marist High School).

Kathleen also received the Medal of Excellence in the Performing Arts at Marist High School in 2024. This is her first opera at the University of Iowa and is so excited to be a part of the process and to be meeting new people! She is thankful for her family and friends for all of their support and love!



ELIZABETH GOFF is a versatile stage and film actress studying speech and hearing science at the University of Iowa. Stage credits include performances with Cedar Rapids Opera, Orchestra Iowa, and Theatre Cedar Rapids. Her performance as Roxie Hart in *Chicago* earned her multiple IHMTA awards. As a film actress, Elizabeth played a supporting role in a feature film starring Ed

Begley Jr., portrayed a young scientist in a short film for Iowa Women Lead Change, and starred in a Hallmark commercial. She would like to thank her mother, her greatest inspiration and most devoted supporter. Enjoy the show!



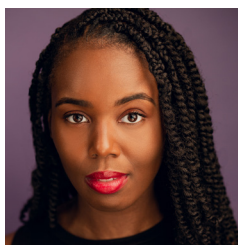
NATHANIEL GOLAY is elated to make his debut with the University of Iowa. His most memorable roles include Kenickie in *Grease* and Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast* at Marion High School. Nathaniel is a senior vocal music education major at Coe College and recently gave his senior recital in December. Nathaniel works for the Zach Johnson Foundation as an after-school tutor

for underprivileged youth. He would like to thank his parents for their unwavering support; his professors for their ongoing guidance; and his friends and family for all the love and encouragement.



SAGE JOHNSON is a fourth-year undergraduate student at the University of Iowa studying music therapy and vocal performance. Her most recent theater credits include *Carrie the Musical* (Ensemble) at Theatre Cedar Rapids and *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel) at the University of Iowa. Before moving to Iowa City, Sage participated in many community theatre productions at the Des Moines

Playhouse and Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. Sage is thrilled to be a part of this production as a last hurrah before graduation in May!



KAYLA LEACOCK is beyond thrilled to be playing Esmeralda in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*! Select credits include; National Tour: *PAW Patrol Live!* (Rocky), *Rosie Revere Engineer & Friends* (Ada Twist); Regional: *The Color Purple* (Nettie), *Hurricane Diane* (Renee), *Bad World: A New Musical* (Linnea), *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical* (Lily Polkadot), *Hairspray* (Dynamite); University

of Iowa: *How to Defend Yourself* (Kara), *Earthus Terminus* (Madame President), *Adaku* (Mma), *Far Away* (Harper). Kayla is a second-year MFA acting candidate and proud member of the Actors' Equity Association. Special thanks to her family and friends!



RODGER LEDERER is a first-year undergraduate student at the University of Iowa, studying music performance and music education. Previous theater credits include Dracula in *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Story*, Chiron and Hades in *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*, and Shrek in *Shrek the Musical*. He is very excited to be a part of the University of Iowa's production

of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and would like to thank his family, friends, cast and crew for all of their support. Thank you for coming, and enjoy the show!



LOGAN McCLELLEN is a freshman majoring in music education, music performance, and theatre arts here at Iowa. This is his first production with the University of Iowa opera department, and he is extremely grateful to have met so many talented individuals and learn from wonderful teachers. He has been involved in theatre/drama all throughout high school, including Jack in *Into*

the Woods, Frederic in *Pirates of Penzance*, and many others. He is glad to keep being active in the theatre world, and very excited to perform on the Hancher stage!



VERONICA McCLELLEN is a third-year dental student at the UI College of Dentistry and she is so excited to be a part of this production! Previous roles include Cinderella (*Into the Woods*), Mrs. Mayor (*Seussical the Musical*) and ensemble in *Pippin*, *Once on This Island*, and *Grease*. She attended undergrad at St. Olaf College where she majored in music and biology and sang in the

St. Olaf Choir. She is currently a member of Vocal Artists of Iowa and outside of singing, she enjoys hanging out with her cats and cooking with her fiancé.



LOUIE MEYERS is a first-year student at the University of Iowa, pursuing a chemical engineering degree with a minor in music. Their most recent roles from various community theaters include Prince Christopher in Rodger and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, Sonny in *Grease*, and Riff in *West Side Story*. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* has long been one of Louie's favorite

musicals, and they are honored and excited to play Captain Phoebus in such a great production!

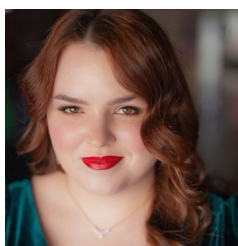


PHILLIP MOBLEY is a first-year music education major at Coe College! He is an instrumentalist and musician who enjoys dabbling in acting and dancing on top of his musicianship. Phillip has been in several high school and local community theater productions, such as *Hello Dolly!*, *The Music Man*, and *Legally Blonde*. He is excited to be able to participate in the University of Iowa's production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.



JOSH MOREY graduated with top honors from Iowa Wesleyan University in 2018 and has since been involved in numerous ensembles such as the Kirkwood Community Band, Cedar Rapids Municipal Band, Coe College Band, Chorale Midwest, Twenty-First Century Vocals, and Orchestra Iowa Community Chorus. In theatre, he has been involved with Cedar Rapids Opera,

Theatre Cedar Rapids, and Opera Quad Cities.



KATE O'CONNELL, soprano, is a senior pursuing Bachelor's degrees in vocal performance and English. During her time at Iowa, Kate has been active in the university's opera program, most recently appearing as Fiordiligi in Iowa's 2024 production of *Così fan tutti* and Rumer in the 2024 Iowa premiere of *Fierce*, composed and directed by Iowa Professor of Jazz, Dr. William Menefield.

Other opera credits at Iowa include *La traviata*, *Il matrimonio segreto* and many opera scenes, including *Rigoletto*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *La bohème*, *Hamlet*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Die Zauberflöte*. In January of 2025, Kate was chosen as a Cedar Rapids Opera Smith Young Artist and appeared in Cedar Rapids' production of *Cendrillon*. Kate was a 2024 finalist in the University of Iowa's Concerto Competition. Kate frequently performs as a featured soloist; Handel's *Messiah* and Schubert's *Mass in G* have been among her favorite works to perform.



KALEB OSBORNE is a sophomore counter-tenor at the University of Iowa. He has enjoyed working on this production and with this cast. Other notable performances Kaleb has been in include Henry Snibblesworth in *The Classical Style* and Pépe in *Rita*. Kaleb would like to thank his parents and future roommates for their support in his endeavors.



JOHN PYATT, baritone, is excited to be a part of this amazing show! He is a second-year vocal performance and music education major at the University of Iowa. Some of his past shows include: *Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth), *Spamalot* (Lancelot), *The Music Man* (Olin), and *Oliver!* (Knife Grinder). His typical musical focuses are choral and jazz music, but he loves opera and is honored to be a part of this production. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* is one of John's favorite musicals and he cannot wait to show the audience how good it is.



CHARLIE RAMIG is a second-year vocal performance and communication studies double major at the University of Iowa studying with Dr. Jeremiah Sanders. Her past roles include Mazet cover in *La Colombe*, chorus member in *Beauty and the Beast* (Cor Jesu Academy), Fruma Sarah in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Cor Jesu Academy), and chorus member in *Freaky Friday* (Cor Jesu Academy). Charlie was also recognized as the Outstanding Student in Music at Cor Jesu Academy in 2024 and received a Gold rating for her vocal performance solos at the Missouri State Solo and Small Ensemble Festival in 2023 and 2024. She looks forward to the opportunity to continue as a part of the Iowa opera community and is thankful to her family and friends for their support!



TRAVIS RICHTER is a freelance opera singer and Director of Choral Activities at Regina Junior and Senior High School in Iowa City. He has performed as a principal artist with Soo Opera Theater, Rimrock Opera, Nevada Opera, Mobile Opera, Charlottesville Opera, Pensacola Opera, New Orleans Opera Association, Opera Louisiane, and Des Moines Metro Opera. He currently resides in Iowa City with his wife,

Molly Dahlberg, and their cats Father Vicar Priest and Catsby Feline.



RANA SABA is a freshman studying elementary education at the University of Iowa and is very excited to be a part of her first university opera. Originally from Iowa City, she grew up doing theatre around the community and in high school most notably as Maria Rainer in *The Sound Of Music* at Theatre West. She would like to thank the whole team and hopes you enjoy the show!



LILY SCHLOSS is excited to be a part of this great show! She is currently a second-year student at the University of Iowa studying vocal performance and music education. Some of her past shows include: *Grease* (Sandy) at ICCT, *Wild Party* (Featured Ensemble) at City Circle, and *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy) at WCT. Lily also enjoys singing the National Anthem at sporting events, including

the Iowa Hawkeye Women's and Men's Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, and Gymnastics. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support! Enjoy the show!



EVAN SCHMIDT is a first-year musical theatre student at the University of Iowa who is very excited to be performing on the Hancher stage. He was involved with the workshop for *Drag'daLore* earlier this year with the theatre program. Other notable roles include: *1984* (Winston Smith), *Hello, Dolly!* (Cornelius Hackl), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Apostle).



MARIA STAVROPLUS is a first-year student at University of Iowa, is double majoring in music therapy and music theatre. She loves being a part of such a talented group of people and obtaining new experiences. Before attending Iowa, Maria was an active participant in high school and community theater, appearing in musicals such as *Ordinary Days* as Deb, *The Little Mermaid* as Ursula, and *Peter*

Pan as Wendy. She looks forward to expanding her knowledge and skills in the following years. In her free time, Maria enjoys songwriting, hiking, volunteering, and spending time with the people she loves.



ELLA STRADER is currently a first-year at the University of Iowa studying music education and vocal performance. Some of her past theater credits include: *Mamma Mia*, *Rock of Ages: High School Edition*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (Arista), and she is so excited to be a part of this production! A huge thanks to her amazing mom and siblings for all of their love and support, and

to her friends for their love and enthusiasm.



EMILY WICHELMANN is a third-year student at the University of Iowa, studying political science and secondary education with a minor in theatre arts. She is very excited to be part of this production! She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support. Enjoy the show!



SHERRY XIA is a master's student at the University of Iowa studying music therapy. She is thrilled to be part of this wonderful production and to perform at Hancher for the first time! She would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to her mentors and to all those who have supported and guided her throughout her life and musical journey.

ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Renee Santos
Elizabeth Romanyuk
Theresa Rukavina
Hugo Kaut
Luis Infante Hernandez
Anna Ahrens
Emilia Baltrukonis
Luke Cuasay
Preston Trinh
Isabella Gaspero
Michelle Chan

VIOLIN II

Jessica Baker
Andrea Allen
Ian Udell
Will Turnis
HaoYang Xu
Connor Buchanan
Clara Kalas
Sophia Jin
Erin Guilfoyle
Chris Martin-Trainor

VIOLA

Ingrid Popp
Mason Munnik
Will Sturms
Biyanca Dokter
Oliver Bostian

CELLO

Elizabeth Kerr
Celia Phillips
Lucas Ralston
Dayne Olson
Jade Diouri
Memphis Howell

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Caleb Estrada-Valentin

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

Henry Golay

CLARINET

Mary Kotrba
Luke Gage

BASS CLARINET

Tony Wang

SOPRANO SAX

Zhou Wang

ALTO SAX

Nate Hammond

BARI SAX

Thomas Drummond

BASSOON

Noah Droessler

HORN

Jacob White

TRUMPET

Anna Kelly
Josh Levy

TROMBONE

Omar Elmusa

EUPHONIUM

Isabelle Barrett

PERCUSSION

Clark Woltman
Sabine Housenga
Elena Brisch

KEYBOARD 1

Tracy Qian

KEYBOARD 2

Jonathan Bass

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

COMPOSERS WORKSHOP IV

Sunday, April 26, 2026 — 08:30 p.m.
Voxman Music Building, Concert Hall

CONCERT BAND

Monday, April 27, 2026 — 08:30 p.m.
Voxman Music Building, Concert Hall

IOWA SAXOPHONISTS' WORKSHOP STUDIO RECITAL

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 — 08:30 p.m.
Voxman Music Building, Stark Opera Studio

BLACK POP MUSIC ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 — 08:30 p.m.
Voxman Music Building, Concert Hall

JAZZ REPERTORY ENSEMBLE

Sunday, May 3, 2026 — 08:30 p.m.
Voxman Music Building, Concert Hall

SYMPHONY BAND

Monday, May 4, 2026 — 08:30 p.m.
Voxman Music Building, Concert Hall

UNIVERSITY BAND

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 — 08:30 p.m.
Voxman Music Building, Concert Hall

CHAMBER MUSIC RESIDENCY PROGRAM RECITAL I

Thursday, May 7, 2026 — 08:30 p.m.
Voxman Music Building, Recital Hall

For the full and most up-to-date listing of music events,
visit music.uiowa.edu/events

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